

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Skinner¹ S7521

f96VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/29/12: rev'd 6/3/21

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

In Nansemond County Court 8th of July 1833

State of Virginia, County of Nansemond SS

On this 8th day of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before Josiah Riddick, Hamlin L. Eppes, William H Godwin, Nathaniel P Phillips the Court of Nansemond now sitting, Henry Skinner, a resident of Nansemond County and State of Virginia, aged 74 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States first under Captain Willis Riddick in the militia service then under Captain Robert Riddick. Then under Captain Elvy Knott and then under Captain __ Foster – that he served under the above named Officers between eight and nine months in all; that he was marched up and down Nansemond River, to Isle of Wight County, to Southampton County and once to Richmond that he was also marched to Norfolk County and to Surry County – that he was in a skirmish with the enemy on Nansemond River whilst under the command of Captain Robert Riddick – that he was called into service about two years after the war commenced and thinks he was drafted. – That he encamped once with some regulars (riflemen) from Kentucky under Colonel Mathews [probably George Mathews]– the camps were pitched about six miles East of Suffolk; the object was to prevent the British from plundering the Country. That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry Skinner²

[p 4]

Amended Declaration of Henry Skinner

State of Virginia, County of Nansemond }

I, Henry Skinner of the aforesaid County & State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the

¹ BLWt2014-100 fraudulent allowance

² The handwriting of the signature is identical to the body of the document. Consequently, I do not believe it is the actual signature of the veteran.

provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. – That by reason of old age and the consequent will loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service; but according to the best of my recollection, I served my country during the Revolutionary War as a private in the militia, a period of not less than eight months and twelve days, and for such service I claim a pension. – That this service was performed during the years 1779, 1780 and 1781 in short tours of six weeks each. – That to the best of my recollection I served two of the these six weeks tours under Captain Willis Riddick in 1779, two tours under Captain Robert Riddick in 1780, one tour under Captain Elvy Knott in 1781 and one tour under Captain Foster the same year 1781 making in all, as above stated eight months and twelve days. – That I was called into service, (I think by draft) by the Colonel commandant of the County, that my service was performed in the field in that part of the State between Norfolk and Richmond in the Counties of Norfolk, Nansemond, Isle of Wight, Southampton & Surry and once in Richmond and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of October 1833 and interlined before signed.

S/ Henry Skinner



[Jeremiah Peel & Robert Booth gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8]

Before me John S. Denson a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Nansemond in the State of Virginia personally appeared Henry Skinner of the same County & State, known to me as a person of good repute and entitled to credit, who first being duly sworn does on his oath say, that he enlisted about the year 1779 or 1780 (he cannot recollect the precise time as his memory is defective) in Captain Biggs' [Benjamin Biggs'] Company of infantry in the 7th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Gibson [John Gibson] for the term of during the War and served till the war ended – that he never received his bounty land from the United States but that his warrant for Virginia bounty land was drawn soon after the war ended – that his certificates of pay or bounty were received at the close of the war, and he thinks Colonel Gibson received a part of them for him: that his discharge was lost or mislaid many years ago and he does not now recollect by whom it was given: that there is not now living any person of his acquaintance by whom his services can be positively proven – that he is and obscure and illiterate man and does not know how to obtain his rights – and in testimony whereof he has hereunto annexed his signature.

Witness my hand & seal as Justice of the Peace the 6 day of November 1833

S/ Jno. S. Denson, JP

S/ Henry Skinner



[Jeremiah Peale and Robert Booth gave a supporting affidavit.]

[p 77]

State of Virginia County of Nansemond}

I, Henry Skinner of Nansemond County, Virginia, due upon my oath declare & testify that, to the best of my knowledge & belief I did enlist in 1779 or 1780 for the term of during the War, and served in Captain Bigg's Company, in the Regiment no. Seven, Virginia Infantry under the command of Colonel Gibson of the Continental line, and that I continued in the service until the War ended. –

I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States, or transferred my claim to it in any manner whatsoever: Therefore, Know all men by these presents, that I Henry Skinner aforesaid, do hereby constitute & appoint, Vespasian Ellis of Accomack County, Virginia, to be my true and lawful attorney for me & in my name to demand & receive from the Secretary of War of the United States, a warrant for the quantity of land due me as aforesaid; and my said attorney is hereby fully authorized to constitute & appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him for the special purposes above expressed. – Witness my hand & seal this 6th day of November 1833
S/ Henry Skinner {Seal}

[p 80]

Revolutionary Claims
Treasury Department,
25 November 1833

Henry Skinner of __ in the County of Nansemond in the State of Virginia has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Private in Captain Biggs's Company, in Gibson's regiment of the Virginia line; and that he received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15th of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15th of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March, 1826, nothing

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
26 November 1833

It appears by the records of this office, that a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars has been issued to Henry Skinner in the Virginia line

It further appears that Henry Skinner is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd March 1826—~~at the rate of __ dollars per month.~~

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

War Department: Bounty land office
November 27th 1833

The name of Henry Skinner, is returned on the records of the Virginia line on file in this office, as a Private of Colonel John Gibson's, Detachment and as being entitled to bounty land from the

United States. –

Henry Skinner's Claim to land from the United States remains unsatisfied, No application appears to have been made, or papers filed, in relation to it.

S/William Gordon

[p 18: A note reading: "Henry Skinner must refund the \$600 previously paid to him under act 1828 before he can be paid under act 32 Bounty land was also in properly allowed."]

[p 33]

Pen Off [Pension Office]

March 31 '45

Sir

In answer to yours of 24th instant in the case of Henry Skinner I would inform you that he had no claim whatever under the act of 15 May 1828 as has been abundantly shown as he was not the Henry Skinner who served "during the war in the Virginia Line of the Continental Army" – Having wittingly or unwittingly by an agent practice a fraud by appropriating to himself the evidences of another's service under that act the Department has withheld his pension as a militia man under the act of 7 June '32. He had a direct participation in the application under the act of 1828 & the proceeds could not have been drawn except by himself or special attorney – You cannot fail to perceive the justice of holding him responsible for money had & received to which he was not entitled.

Robt. H. Webb, Esqr.

Suffolk Va.

[p 82]

I, Richard D Webb, of Nansemond County Virginia hereby certify, that I am well acquainted with Henry Skinner of said County, – that I was called upon sometime in the month of November, I think, by said Skinner to write his declaration for him that he might be enabled to obtain his full pay as a soldier & I did so; that the said Henry Skinner signed the declaration in my presence, and though he can sign his name, he is yet a man of very little information, and I used the words "obscure & illiterate," because he is really a man of very little education, & he declared to me that he did not know his rights and that was the reason of why he had not before applied for further pay which might be coming to him – I also certify, that I have always understood in my County, that the said Henry Skinner was a soldier of the revolution; and that he is a man of truth and veracity – and that though he is an obscure man, I believe his statements are entitled to full credit – I use the word "illiterate" merely to convey the idea that he was not a man of much information, though the term was not strictly correct.

S/ Richard T Webb

of Nansemond

Richmond December 9th, 1833

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months & 12 days service in the Virginia Troops.]

[It appears that the same man claimed service once under the 1828 act for service in the Continental Army for during the war having entered the service in 1779 and served to the end of the war and secondly, as militia man from Nansemond County having served 6 tours of 6 weeks each during the years 1779, 1780 and 1781. There appears to have been proof on the records of

the service as a private by the name of Henry Skinner in the Continental Army. There is no evidence in this file that the man was ever prosecuted for fraud, nor is there evidence that anyone else was prosecuted for having gotten an illiterate man to file applications for two different terms of service.]

Addendum to Henry Skinner S7521

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

To the Governor &c of Va

Henry Skinner of Nansemond County prays an allowance of Bounty land for his services for the term of during the War in the Va Continental line in addition to 200 acres allowed him in 1783 he having enlisted for the term of the war before 1st April 1781 towit in 1779.

For proof of his title to additional Bounty the Executive are referred to page 202 of Vol 1st of Certificates of Warrants issued, which will be found in the Registers Office.

Respectfully submitted

V Ellis for H. Skinner

1834 July 31 Rejected